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Welland

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Rates need lowering?
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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 48 VOLUME 15

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■ MUSEUM: Santa at museum on Sunday

Celebrate a grand old Christmas

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It's a celebration of Christmas of yesteryear.

This Sunday, the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will be holding its annual Grand Old Christmas Festival.

From 12 to 4 p.m. the museum will be decked out in the holiday spirit as it celebrates the winter holiday with a historic

twist.

"It's a family tradition for many families," said assistant curator Michelle Mason. "Children who used to come now bring their own children."

The museum's heritage village will be bustling with activities; visitors can see live blacksmiths in action. Santa Claus will be on hand to greet visitors by the fireplace.

See CHRISTMAS | page 2



Michelle Mason, assistant curator at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum along with education programmer Tami Daoust get ready for the museum's annual Grand Old Christmas Festival by decorating a "Charlie Brown" tree as part of its holiday exhibit. The festival takes place Dec. 4.

EDDIE CHAU/Staff Photo

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CHRISTMAS

'Santa will be by the fireplace'

FROM PAGE 1

"Kids absolutely love Santa," Mason said. "Santa will be by the fireplace in the log cabin. It's a good atmosphere. There will be roasted chestnuts and of course the very popular Christmas pudding. It sold out last year in under 30 minutes."

The pudding will be

available to purchase at the museum. For those that like a dine-in experience, the dessert is available with tea at Arabella's Tea Room on Sunday and all of next week.

For the creative types candle dipping, print making and log sawing are all staples of the festival. Of course, Christmas music

will be performed courtesy of the McKay Public School choir and Port High quintet while visitors enjoy roasted chestnuts and hot apple cider.

Coinciding with the festival is the Christmas in the Country exhibit which highlights the holiday of yesteryear.

"Back then people

didn't buy toys they were handmade," Mason said. "Decorations were also handmade. They had parlour games and snowshoes. Things were simpler back then."

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 20. For more information on the festival call 905-834-7604.

A day prior the Christmas

spirit will be celebrated throughout Port Colborne Saturday.

Santa Claus will arrive to the lakeside city down the canal on a tugboat at 1 p.m. Santa will be greeted by song courtesy of the McKay School choir who will be singing carols.

St. Nick will be posing for photographs with children

between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. with shutterbug Precious LaPlante for a small fee.

After a short break Mr. Claus will resume his holiday duties during the Santa Claus Parade of Lights which kicks off at 6:30 p.m.

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■ SHIPPING: Welland Canal scheduled to close Dec. 30

Canal traffic up slightly over 2010

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORTE COLBORNE — Vessel traffic through the Welland Canal is up 3% compared to last year, reports St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

Spokesman Andrew Bogora said total vessel transits through the canal at the end of October numbered 2,794. That includes lakers and saltwater vessels, commonly known as salties.

At the end of October, a total of 3,276 vessels transited through the St. Lawrence Seaway system, which extends from Montreal to mid-Lake Erie. That's up from 3,040 during the same time period in 2010.

"We've seen an 11% increase in the number of lakers in system and a 25% decrease in the number of salties."

Bogora said the decrease in salties can be attributed to a couple of different factors. Whether the salties come into the seaway system is heavily influenced by cargo rates they can earn across the world, he said.

"Opportunities may be stronger in other jurisdictions and they'd be less inclined to come here. The cargoes available would certainly have a pronounced impact, as well."

Cargo carried by both lakers and salties through the Great Lakes and seaway system include grain, corn, iron ore, steel, coal, salt and



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

The CSL Niagara makes its way underneath Bridge 19A and into Lock 8, heading downbound in the Welland Canal on Thursday morning. Vessel traffic through the canal is up 3% to the end of October as compared to the same time last year, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. said.

liquid products, such as fuel.

Canadian grain, Bogora said, has been a pretty healthy market for lakers this year as has been iron ore.

"Grain was up 18% at the

end of October compared to last year. Another bright spot are bulk products, like salt for road use and liquid products, including fuel."

Bogora said the Welland

Canal will close to vessel traffic at midnight on Dec. 30, weather permitting.

That means any ships will have to be clear of either Port Colborne or St. Catharines at

that time. Any salties in the traffic or seaway system must be out before then as the locks at Montreal close as of midnight on Dec. 29.

If there is heavy ice in the

lakes, the seaway could be closed earlier, but that hasn't happened in recent memory, Bogora said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

portraits

■ MARSHVILLE: Village busy despite weather

Wainfleet's past a Christmas present

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Visitors to Marshville Heritage Village experienced a heaping helping of Christmas past Sunday during the annual Christmas in the Village event.

Despite the rainy weather, a steady stream of people made their way to the heart of the township to experience holiday traditions of long ago. The smell of fresh apple cider and soup cooking over an open fire filled the air, and children could be heard laughing as they learned how to work wooden toys offered up in Farther Christmas' workshop.

Four-year-old Julia Dobrits was eager to take a bite out of the gingerbread man she so gaily decorated in the cookie store.

But she held off, instead looking over the antique toys displayed in the weavery with her father Dave.

"We come out every year,"

Dave Dobrits said of the event, adding it makes him feel like part of the Wainfleet community.

He said he enjoys sharing the tradition and respect of the day with his daughter, whose favorite part still seemed to be the tasty goodies.

Though they have attended Marshville Heritage Festival in the summer, this year's Christmas in the Village was a first for Tanya Amadio and family. They spent the afternoon going from building to building and taking the signs goodbyes.

"I love it," Amadio said of the event, impressed the entire afternoon came at no cost.

"It's great to be able to show the kids how Christmas was celebrated. It's good for them to learn about the past."

Along with decorating cookies, visitors had the chance to create Christmas ornaments, enjoy hot kettle



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Carol and Owen Wohlschlagel created a display of their antique toys for visitors to browse during the Christmas in the Village event.

corn and other goodies, and listen to Christmas carols performed by the Peace River Band.

"It's a hands-on event for the whole family," Marshville Heritage Society member Margaret Robertson said.

Christmas in the Village has been happening for more than 15 years, she said, and has only gained in popularity with families returning again and again.

"It's about going back to your roots and celebrating Christmas in an old-fashioned way."

"People didn't have a lot

They made their own fun," she said, which is just what she hoped to help youngsters of today understand during their visit.

Robertson said event organizers will be reaching out to say thank you for cooperation when the influx of visitors hit the village during the Marshville Heritage Festival each summer. It has been kept free every since to ensure it's an event the whole community can enjoy.

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MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Linnea Amadio and brother Matteo decorate gingerbread cookies during Christmas in the Village in Wainfleet.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Tara Van Zeben and children Byron and Cheyenne collect some fresh kettle corn to try while walking around at Christmas in the Village.

IMPORT NEWS

Published by Import News
Sun Media Corp.

228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5
Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660
import@wellandtribune.ca
Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager
Dave Johnson, Import News senior reporter



ourview

Take care, be aware

In light of a tragic crash at the beginning of November, Wainfleet will be looking for signage to alert people of active farm areas in Wainfleet.

Aid, Richard Dykstra raised the issue at a recent council meeting, saying people need to be aware of farming areas through the winter months.

The incident that sparked the concern was when a 38-year-old Seikir, Ont., woman died after her van collided with the rear end of a combine on Forks Rd.

While Forks Rd. is posted 80 km/h, most people routinely travel in excess of the posted limit and that can compound problems. Even travelling at the speed limit, drivers will find themselves coming up on slow moving farm vehicles very quickly.

When the crash took place, many farmers across the township were out in the fields bringing in the harvest while the weather was going to rain.

Last fall, farm vehicles, like combines, do not travel very fast and are very large, often filling the lane they are in completely.

At times those farm vehicles can be hauling trailers full of crops, making them longer.

Most Wainfleet residents are aware of tractors, combines and other farm vehicles that travel the municipal and regional roads in the township.

People passing through may not be aware of the vehicles, and Dykstra's request, which came as a result of a resident raising a concern, is especially important on the regional roads, where speeds are higher.

In addition to the traffic, there could be a concern include Regional Roads 24 and 27. Hwy. 3 could also be a concern, but that road is controlled by the province and while the township will make a request of the region for signs on its roads, we believe it should also make the same request of the province.

It would be a smart request, especially if it could prevent another tragedy.

Santa comes to town

Santa Claus will make a couple of stops in Wainfleet and Port Colborne this weekend.

He'll be in Wainfleet in the arena's Moore Room on Saturday for breakfast with the Wainfleet Ratepayers Association.

He'll then come to Port Colborne and arrive on West Street by tugboat before taking part in the Santa Claus Parade later that evening. On Sunday, Santa will be at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's Grand Old Christmas Festival for one more visit.

Residents looking to take their children out to meet him will have plenty of opportunity. And we encourage people to get out and visit all of the places and events Santa will be at.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

A challenge for Christians

REV. STEVEN DAVIS
Central United Church

Another year has gone by and once again we're just a few weeks away from Christmas. The signs are all around us. Christmas music and decorations in the malls, and we actually put our Christmas tree up much earlier than usual because our daughter wanted to. That was a good enough reason.

There's one other sign of the season that we come to expect – since again we're just a few weeks away from Christmas. Maybe it's time to let that go.

Of course I understand the sentiment. Christ is central to my life and to my faith. Without Christ, my faith would be nothing and Christmas would be nothing, but still I think we need to move on. The reality of our world is that there are two separate and distinct Christmas celebrations. There's the Christian Christmas which celebrates as it should the birth of Christ.

Jesus, the Flesh, who throughout his life revealed God's ways and God's will to us, and who ultimately lived and died and was resurrected for the world – part of the ministry of reconciliation he undertook, as throughout his life (from the manger to the cross to the empty tomb) "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself."

As Christians, we celebrate this amazing display of divine love for us all, and we proclaim the love of God revealed by Christ, and we invite others to share in our

celebration of it. That's what Christmas is all about from a Christian perspective. That's what we should celebrate; that's what we should never forget.

But whether we like it or not, there's another Christmas. There's the secular Christmas. The secular Christmas doesn't revolve around Christ. It revolves around the image of Santa Claus and is marked by an orgy of consumer spending and gift-giving, and – in all honesty – it's fun. If sometimes the world gets a bit silly with "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas," I don't really care. I'll happily say "Merry Christmas" to anyone who wants to decide what sort of greeting they want to offer. I'm not sure I get the angst felt by so many Christians about whether Wal-Mart greeters say "Merry Christmas" or whether a school has a "Winter celebration" rather than a Christmas pageant.

It really isn't the job of the world to keep Christ in Christmas, you know. That's the church's job. That's our job as Christians. The whole "Keep Christ in Christmas" movement seems to have been based largely on nostalgia for bygone days when Christian faith was the centre of everything. Those days are over. The church and the faith are increasingly on the periphery of society. Rather than lamenting the loss of past glory, as Christians we need to seize the present – even with all its challenges – and figure out how to move forward. The wistful lament "Keep Christ in Christmas" really doesn't do that.

Care for and support the poor and the outcast and the oppressed. This was the life of Jesus, after all, who told us that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love our neighbours. At the very least, go to church – not just on Christmas Eve, but regularly, to be inspired to live this life of love God calls us to.

Be Christ this Christmas – and have a merry one. God bless.

readers' views

The wind industry, McGuinty's government, and unashamed duplicity

I find it interesting to see the prime spokesperson for the Niagara Region Wind Corp. (a private for profit company with no connection to Niagara Region government) now being reported as the critical spokesperson for the recently established off-shore wind energy company comprising off-shore industrial wind turbines in Lake Ontario with the threat that if they are not permitted to go ahead, against a recent provincial government moratorium stopping any further off shore industrial wind turbine projects until independent enquiries are completed to prove they are environmentally safe, then somehow our communities will suffer.

It appears no outlet exists currently by the Ministry of Environment and other government agencies now show that they have received hundreds of complaints from those living in close proximity to wind turbines exhibiting negative health issues only appearing since the industrial wind turbines

question their own news?

L. Pressured by the wind industry the provincial government and interested parties such as CANWEA have continued to promote this programme despite the lack of any proof existing that they cause negative health effects on communities living in close proximity. Now after years of this misinformation, and only very recently, CANWEA have publicly admitted that industrial wind turbines do cause negative health effects to communities impacted by them;

2. McGuinty's government has also claimed for years that there have been few, if any, complaints about such negative effects from communities living close to these turbines.

Documents only recently released by the Ministry of Environment and other government agencies now show that they have received hundreds of complaints from those living in close proximity to wind turbines exhibiting negative health issues only appearing since the industrial wind turbines

So – I have a challenge for Christians. To give credit where credit is due, I actually believe that most of those wall photos that are becoming so popular on Facebook, it was good advice. It suggested that rather than worry about keeping Christ in Christmas, we actually seek to be Christ this Christmas. That is our faith, after all – as Christians, we are "little Christs," given both the privilege and responsibility of representing Christ to the world.

Lamenting whether there's enough emphasis on Jesus at Christmas doesn't strike me as a particularly effective way of getting people to pay attention. I am, however, fairly concerned about how, or even whether we mark his birth. I think he's much more interested in how we live and in how we love.

So – don't worry about keeping Christ in Christmas. Strive to be Christ for Christians. Find a place in the community to volunteer, find a neighbor who has a need you can offer some support to. Spend time with someone who needs it.

Care for and support the poor and the outcast and the oppressed. This was the life of Jesus, after all, who told us that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love our neighbours. At the very least, go to church – not just on Christmas Eve, but regularly, to be inspired to live this life of love God calls us to.

Be Christ this Christmas – and have a merry one. God bless.

began turning close by.

3. And McGuinty's new energy minister has recently announced that the provincial government would be reducing the financial subsidies provided to both wind and energy companies under the taxpayer funded FIT programme. He claims that it is because the FIT programme is too successful? Too "successful" implies that too many individuals and companies are profiting from these subsidies and Ontario, or at least the Ontario taxpayers, can no longer afford them. Many European countries have done the same, decimating their green energy industries' in the process.

The green alternative energy industries only succeed by being bankrolled by the taxpayer. They are not economically viable, nor, at this time, have these industries shown a scrap of credible proof that they ever can be.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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■ COLUMN

Man behind Peggy's Little Harbour visits Port library

LINDSAY COSTELLO
For InPort News

Use your imagination as you
dive into a unique cartoon
world.

Darren Cranford is the man
behind Peggy's Little Harbour,
a book for the iPad that tells
the story of a Newfoundland
girl and her friends as they
learn and explore the world
around them.

Cranford, who is the
president of Keyframe Digital
Productions Inc. in Niagara-
on-the-Lake, visited the Port
Colborne Public Library last
Wednesday to introduce
young students to the world of
animation by showcasing his

latest project.

Fielding questions from the
more than 100 elementary
students in attendance,
Cranford explained the
process in which his book was
developed and the ways the
technology enhances the story.

The hour-long presentation
also explored Keyframe's
role in the video effects and
animation industry.

Having grown up on
Canada's east coast, Cranford
decided to set Peggy's Little
Harbour in his native province of
Newfoundland.

In his story, seven-year-old
Peggy uses Celtic music to
summon her animal friends,
who join her on her quest for

knowledge.

"Peggy's a little girl who
listens," he said, adding the
book's title character teaches
children to be inquisitive
about the world around them.

Having co-founded
Keyframe Digital Productions
14 years ago, Cranford has
worked on movies, television
shows and video games for all
ages. He is now looking with a
younger crowd.

"Children are the best
audience," said Cranford of
the reason he chose to visit
libraries in the region to
display the book.

See BOOK | page 6

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CITY OF PORT COLBORNE NOTICE TO CITIZENS 2012 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne is commencing its 2012 Budget deliberations.

Council will hold a special meeting to discuss the 2012 Budget on Monday, December 5th, 2011, commencing at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, third floor, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne. Members of the public are invited to attend. The 2012 Draft Budget is available on the City's website, www.portcolborne.ca.

Dates of subsequent budget meetings are forthcoming and will be advertised on the City's website.

Ashley Grigg
City Clerk

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Sandy White

■ BOOK

Electronic book works with iPad

FROM PAGE 5

"We want to make sure we're on the right course as far as entertaining children."

He said that children expect more with regard to modern-day technology and want to be involved in the learning process and appreciate the entertainment value.

"It's a more immersive technology," he said, adding the interactive features set the book apart.

Because the electronic book works with the iPad, the reader can tilt the device to view the scenes from different perspectives and can touch the screen to have words move to them.

The application gives readers the option of reading themselves or being read to.

While Cranford cites Peggy's Little Harbour as an easy read, he said the

lessons imparted through the characters actions are beneficial for children of all ages and there are morals to be learned from reading the book.

Although the project was a challenge to create, it is a fun and educational way to read.

Cranford said he has received positive feedback thus far due to the book's interactivity and has plans to expand.

A second book is to be released this month with a third story still in the early stages of production. Paperback versions will also be made available in the near future.

A thirteen-episode television cartoon has also been created and will be pitched to networks.

For more information on Peggy's Little Harbour, visit www.peggyslittleharbour.com.



LINDSAY COSTELLO/InPort News photo

Darren Cranford, co-founder and president of Keyframe Digital Productions Inc. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is the face behind iPad book Peggy's Little Harbour. Cranford visited the Port Colborne Library last week to showcase the book to a student audience.

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■ VALE: Consultant has to present report

Contamination report expected 'any day now'

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

POR T COLBORNE — Another extension might be needed in order for the public to comment on the community-based risk assessment of contaminated lands on Port Colborne's east side.

Dan Aquilina, the city's planning and development director, said he "expects any day now" for information to arrive from Waters Environmental Group in relation to the CBRA process conducted on

historic land contamination linked to the Vale nickel refinery.

The public has until Friday to comment on the material upon review. However, the deadline may be extended because the City of Port Colborne and the Ministry of the Environment have not received a report from Waters Environmental Group president Robert Watters along with laboratory reports outlining contamination in soil levels.

"We are waiting on the verification of the lab reports," Aquilina said. "The public is given one month

to comment once the information is received when it is submitted (to the MOE). Without all the information the public cannot comment."

Watters Environmental Group is the consulting group hired by the city to conduct the quality assurance and quality control report of the contaminated soil.

Resident Diana Wiggins had requested the extension to come on. Heavily involved in the CBRA process, Wiggins said it had been frustrating to residents who had volunteered their time towards the pro-

cess to not receive the information.

Wiggins said the CBRA work had been done in a timely manner and well.

She had hoped to receive Waters Environmental Group's report to compare results before commenting on the MOE report.

"We need both analysis comparisons in order to write a report," Wiggins said. "It's a key component for us."

Wiggins said there have been many delays since 2003 to get the lab report from the consultants. She said the documentation may have been "long and drawn out."

Last year, the city's public liaison committee (PLC) released a draft CBRA report on contaminated soil in Port Colborne. The report chronicled 10 years worth of investigation.

The PLC was formed after a study released by the MOE identified negative effects of chemicals — nickel, copper, arsenic and cobalt — released from the former Inco plant's smelter, which it operated between 1918 and 1994. The MOE report called for Vale to remediate the affected properties

■ The public is given one month to comment once the information is received then it is submitted (to the MOE). Without all the information the public cannot comment."

Dan Aquilina
City of Port Colborne planning and development director

on Rodney St.

Remediation is the second phase of the project, said Harry Wells, who chaired the PLC. The first phase is for the comment of the consultant's report.

"The city is obligated to get the information for the public," Wells said. "The city should be asking for the extension, not the public."

echau@wellandtribune.ca

Twitter: @EdChauTribune

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■ UNWRAPPED TOYS FOR YOUTH



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Jamal Mills-Alexander and Sara Dekker of Double T Fashion are helping out Santa's Helpers by collecting a mountain of new unwrapped toys for youth. Double T Fashion will be collecting goods until Dec. 17.

Ask Our Pharmacists

LARRY BOOGIO
R.Ph., B.Sc. (Pharm.)DONNIE EDWARDS
R.Ph., B.Sc. (Pharm.)

Dry Skin

At this time of year patients are starting to complain about dry skin. Dry skin management often involves some trial and error of different products, but there are some general rules everyone can follow to help manage symptoms.

Dry skin occurs when oils in the skin are lost and water that is normally in the skin is able to escape. When bathing or showering it is important to use lukewarm water as opposed to hot water. Hot water can cause more oil to be lost from the skin and cause itching and dryness. Soap should be used only for groin, underarms, and feet. Other moisturizing body washes can be used for the rest of the body. After showering or bathing apply a moisturizer to help retain some of the moisture from the shower.

There are many different types of moisturizers. Depending on the ingredients they have separate functions. Some ingredients can hydrate and soften the skin. Others provide a barrier to prevent water loss, and others help to draw water to the top layer of the skin. Depending on what combination of ingredients are used there are four classes of moisturizers. These are ointments, oils, creams, and lotions.

Examples of ointment moisturizers include Aquaphor, and Vaseline. These moisturizers can be greasy and only a small amount is needed. They would be useful for someone with very dry hands. They can be applied at night under cotton gloves.

An example of an oil moisturizer would be baby oil. Again, only a small amount is needed. It is not a good idea to add these to the bath because they can make the tub very slippery. As well they can cause yeast infections when added to bath water.

An example of a cream moisturizer would be Cetaphil moisturizing cream. Cream moisturizers are generally less greasy, and very gentle for sensitive skin. Cetaphil specializes in products that won't cause acne and are safe for people with allergies.

Lotions are the least greasy; however, they sometimes contain alcohol and can be drying. An example would be Nivea body lotion. Read the label on the back of the lotion. You may want to avoid those that contain alcohol.

In general, most moisturizers need to be applied several times throughout the day.

Our cold dry climate leads to many complaints about dry skin. Luckily, there are many products on the market than can help even the worst sufferers. If you are not sure about what is right for you, you may need to ask for some professional advice.

Two Locations:

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200 Catharine St., Port Colborne, ON
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Dec. 1 marked one full year of this term of Niagara Region council and I'd like to take this opportunity to both reflect on some of the achievements that have taken place in such a short period of time as well as look forward to the challenges/opportunities we will be facing moving forward.

You will see that many of the 2011 achievements are a result of a greater respect for taxpayers dollars and their ability to pay.

A theme that I have brought forward in no uncertain terms and will continue to do so on your behalf:

2011 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Instituted a hiring freeze; maintained a wage freeze; 2011 tax decrease of 1.37%; starting and completing the annual budget earlier (to give it the time and attention to detail the public expects) as

well as hosting public engagement sessions; region is forecasting a funding surplus of \$8.3 million for 2011-12; Port Colborne rates you have, for too long, been overcharged for their water/wastewater services.

This term of Council has recognized that and returned approximately \$300,000 to Port Colborne (we will also reconcile any future overpayments) and successfully transitioned to new waste management programs; brought the cost of living for Port Colborne residents by 8% and increasing diversion (from our landfills) from 42% to 47% in the first year alone.

**David Barrick**See **BARRICK** | page 11

of the
month
DECEMBER

RECIPE*Our Port Country Pantry's*
Mexican Spiced Chocolate Chip Cookies

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Lightly grease a cookie pan or spray with nonstick coating.

1. Melt 1 cup chocolate chips in a heat-proof bowl over simmering water or (microwave on low setting) 30 to 40 power for 1 minute to 3 minute 30 seconds. Cool to room temperature.

2. Beat butter with granulated & brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Stir coffee with the flour until smooth. Add to butter mixture. In a separate bowl, stir flour with cinnamon, baking soda, salt & espresso pepper. Add to butter mixture; mix on low just until combined. Stir in remaining chocolate chips. Drop dough by the spoonful. Line each onto baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Bake for 10 minutes or until set but still soft. Cool for 5 minutes; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes 36 to 48 cookies.

*Most dry ingredients are available in store.

- 1 1/2 cups Chocolate Chips
- 2 1/2 cup salted butter or margarine
- 1 cup Granulated Sugar
- 1 cup Brown Sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup instant (regular or defat) coffee & vanilla extract
- 3 cups All-Purpose Flour
- 2 tsp. Grand Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1/4 regular salt or Sea Salt
- 1/4 espresso powder

3. Beat butter with granulated & brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Stir coffee with the flour until smooth. Add to butter mixture. Line each onto baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Bake for 10 minutes or until set but still soft. Cool for 5 minutes; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes 36 to 48 cookies.

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■ BARRICK

2012 challenge: should we reduce number of councillors?

FROM PAGE 10

Council also created an economic development transition plan; launched Niagara Regional Inter-Municipal Transit three year pilot project; launched Niagara's Mobile Dental clinic (mobile van visits schools and community agencies providing children and youth with free preventive dental services); created a 'Responsive Region Improvement Team' with a mandate to work with the

region's audit committee to seek out operational efficiencies and cost-savings for taxpayers; Niagara achieved the designation as a Cultural Capital of Canada for 2012.

CHALLENGES/ OPPORTUNITIES MOVING FORWARD:

Finalizing the 2012 budget; consolidating Provincial Offences Courts (from four facilities to two or one facility); implementing the

economic development transition plan; ensuring tangible results from the responsive region improvement team; water/wastewater projects; will look at the cost-savings that would be available by combining regional and local municipal responsibilities into a utility model and/or single service provider; governance review (eg. should we directly elect the regional chair?); should we reduce the number of councillors and/or change

their role to serve on local councils as well, etc.); finalizing and implementing the 2012-15 council business plan (which I will discuss further in my article).

Thank you, once again, for allowing me to be your representative at the region. As you can see, together we are making tangible and positive changes.

As the holiday season approaches I'd like to say, from my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

EYE EXAMS
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■ SELF-TAUGHT: Artist learned to paint on his own

3D artworks just rocking

InPort News Staff

and modern pieces.

PORT COLBORNE — Have you ever seen a painting of northern Ontario and wish it popped a bit more?

Esa Nieminen paints northern Ontario landscapes where he literally fuses rock to canvas or other mediums like wood and paints to create a three-dimensional look to his acrylic landscapes.

"I thought it was a rocky area, so I got the idea: 'Why not put real rocks on the painting myself?' I always used texture in my work so I thought it would be a good idea," he said.

He also does abstract work

on the wall in the Port Colborne Public Library and will be up until Jan. 15. People who are interested can participate in a silent auction to purchase the scenic pieces. Prices are listed beside the paintings and bids can be as low as 50% of the listed price.

"It's something new I am trying to do."

Nieminen was born and raised in Finland where he spent lots of time fishing and hunting in wilderness that looks much like that of northern Ontario.

See ARTIST | page 12



Norbert Gieger » 188-A West St. Port Colborne 905.835-2155

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ARTIST

Teaches painting

FROM PAGE 11

When he was 15 he spent more than a year with the merchant marine and travelled over the world, with stops in Europe, South America and Saudi Arabia.

In 1996 he and his family moved to Toronto, then up north. He now lives in Port Colborne where he holds exhibitions and teaches painting classes in his Stanley St. studio.

He has written four books about his self-taught painting techniques

and travelled North America to teach art classes, clubs and chapters.

"I get to teach the way I paint because I had to figure it out for myself," he said.

He has exhibited his work across North America, from

Vancouver to Las Vegas, and has made his way into corporate collections worldwide.

"You try to create an image from your mental picture of a subject and the challenge is, when you create it the way you

like it doesn't often turn out the way you want it," he said. "The finished product is a bit of a surprise."

To contact Nieminen for classes or purchases visit [www.esarockartstudio.ca/index.html](http://esarockartstudio.ca/index.html).

Ontario Energy Board

Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND HEARING

2012-2014 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN

ENBRIDGE GAS DISTRIBUTION INC.



EB-2011-0295

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. ("Enbridge") has applied to the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") seeking approval of its 2012-2014 Demand Side Management ("DSM") plan. The application was filed on November 4, 2011, under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. E-15 (Schedule B).

The Board has assigned file number EB-2011-0295 to this application.

The application has been filed pursuant to the Board's DSM Guidelines that were issued on June 30, 2011. Enbridge is seeking approval for a 2012 DSM budget of \$30.91 million.

How to see Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.'s Application

To see a copy of the application, go to the Consumer page of the Board's website and enter the case number EB-2011-0295 in the "Find an Application" box. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Board's office in Toronto and at Enbridge's office and on its website, www.enbridgegas.com/ratecase.

Written Hearing

The Board intends to proceed with this matter by way of a written hearing unless a party advises the Board that there is a good reason for not holding a written hearing. If you object to the Board holding a written hearing in this matter, you must provide written reasons why an oral hearing is necessary. Any submissions objecting to a written hearing must be received by the Board and copied to the applicant within 10 days of the publication date of this notice.

How to Participate

You may participate in this proceeding by requesting either intervenor or observer status, or by submitting a letter of comment:

1. Intervenors participate actively in the proceeding (i.e., submit written questions, evidence, and arguments, and cross-examine witnesses at an oral hearing). You may request intervenor status by sending a letter of intervention to the Board and copying Enbridge no later than 10 days from the publication or service date of this notice. The letter of intervention must include:

- a. A description of how you are, or may be, affected by the outcome of this proceeding;
- b. If you represent a group, a description of the group and its membership; and
- c. Whether you intend to seek an award of costs and the grounds for your cost award eligibility.

2. Observers do not participate actively in the proceeding but receive documents issued by the Board in the proceeding. (There is no fee for observers to receive documents issued by the Board.) You may request observer status by sending a request to the Board no later than 10 days from the publication or service date of this notice.

3. Letters of Comment are to be sent to the Board no later than 30 days from the publication or service date of this notice. All letters of comment will be placed on the public record, subject to the privacy terms for personal information stated below.

This means that the letters will be available for viewing at the Board's offices and will be placed on the Board's website.

YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS TREATED DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON HOW YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING:

• Intervenors - everything you file with the Board, including your name and contact information, will be placed on the public record (i.e., the public file and the Board's website).

• Letters of comment or observers - the Board removes any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the letter of comment or the request for observer status (i.e., address, fax number, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual), however, your name and the content of the letter of comment or of the request for observer status will become part of the public record.

• Filing Information for Intervenors

If you already have a user ID, please submit your intervention request through the Board's web portal at <https://www.erm.ontarioenergyboard.ca>. Additionally, two paper copies must be submitted to the address set out below.

If you do not have a user ID, visit the Board's website under e-Filing Services and complete a user ID/password request form. For instructions on how to submit documents and naming conventions, please refer to the RESS Document Guidelines found at http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry_e-Filing_Services.

The Board also accepts interventions by e-mail, at the address below. Additionally, two paper copies must be submitted to the address set out below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit their intervention request on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies.

Need more information?

For more information on how to participate please click on "Get Involved" under the "OEB and You" menu on the Consumer page of the Board's website, or call the Board at 1-888-632-6273 (toll-free).

How to Contact the Board or Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.

Please reference Board file number EB-2011-0295 in the subject line of your e-mail or at the top of your letter. It is also important that you provide your name, postal address and telephone number and, if available, an e-mail address and fax number. All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

ADDRESSES

The Board:

Ontario Energy Board
PO. Box 2319
27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4
Attention: Board Secretary
Filings:
<https://www.erm.ontarioenergyboard.ca>
E-mail:
boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (toll-free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

The Applicant:

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.
500 Consumers Road
Toronto, ON M2J 1P8
Attention: Mr. Norm Ryckman
E-mail:
EGDRegulatoryProceedings@enbridge.com
Tel: 416-495-5499
Fax: 416-495-8072

Counsel for the Applicant:

Mr. Dennis M. O'Leary
Aird & Berlis LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
Brookfield Place, Box 754
Suite 1800, 181 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2T9
E-mail: doleany@airdberlis.com
Tel: 416-865-4711
Fax: 416-863-1515

IMPORTANT

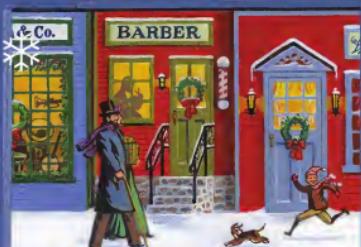
IF YOU DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN SUBMISSION OBJECTING TO A WRITTEN HEARING OR DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING BY FILING WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, THE BOARD MAY PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO FURTHER NOTICE IN THIS PROCEEDING.

DATED at Toronto,
November 16, 2011

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD
Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Christmas in Port



THE TRIBUNE

EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2

The Roselawn Centre presents Food and Wine at Roselawn

A spectacular five-course gourmet meal in the Roselawn Dining room featuring Pondview Estate Winery.

\$85.00 per person. 6:30pm. For more information call the Roselawn Box office at 905-834-7572

DECEMBER 3:

The Port Colborne Lioness present "Breakfast with Santa"

Seatings at 9 am and 10:30 am for a pancake breakfast, including coffee or juice and a visit with Santa at the Lion's Hall. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased at Tuck's Jewelers or from a Lioness.

Santa Arrives Downtown by Tugboat at 1pm

Experience a tradition unique to our city as Santa arrives in Port Colborne - on the deck of a tugboat in the Welland Canal. Greet Santa along with the McKay School Choir on West Street at the Harbourmaster House and follow Mr. Claus and his bag piper in a parade to Rossman's Store on Clarence Street. Inside the store, children can participate in a craft while they wait their turn to sit upon Santa's knee and share their Christmas wishes.

Have your child's picture taken with Santa from 1:30 - 2:30 pm by photographer Precious LaPlante for



\$5. Children will also receive goodie bags, hot chocolate and festive treats to celebrate the day courtesy of the Downtown BIA Association.

Port Colborne's Annual Lighted Santa Claus Parade

Saturday December 3, 2011 beginning at 6:30 pm from Port Colborne High School and travelling south on Steele Street to Clarence Street where it will move east on Clarence Street to West Street. Making its way south on West Street to Charlotte Street, the parade will then travel west on Charlotte Street to end at the Market Square, in front of City Hall. Children are then welcome to visit with Santa in the Guild Hall and enjoy hot chocolate and timbits. Port Colborne Optimist Club will be collecting non-perishable food donations along the route for the Food Bank.

DECEMBER 4:

Grand Old Christmas Festival

Noon to 4 pm at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum. Enjoy Christmas music, hot apple cider and roasted chestnuts as the children have their photo taken with Santa. Experience a true traditional treat - visit Arabella's Tea Room for a hot cup of tea and Christmas pudding. For more information call 905-834-7604

DECEMBER 6 - 11:

Pudding and Sauce Week at Arabella's Tea Room

Arabella's Tea Room serves Christmas pudding and sauce all week. Located at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum. For more information call 905-834-7604

DECEMBER 26:

Boxing Week Sales Begin

Downtown Port Colborne - Individual shop hours and days of operation may vary

DECEMBER 31:

CASCO & Friends Kidz New Year's Eve Carnival

Ring in the New Year with free skating, face painting, cookie decorating, games, a shoot out competition, Casco's "Fructose Stand" and a Mad Scientist show. From 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Westside Arena. Join us for a fireworks display in the field beside the Westside Arena at 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit us at www.portcolborne.ca

Classic Christmas

Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

Take a trip back in time as you experience holiday traditions of seasons past.

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's Grand Old Christmas Festival brings together old-fashioned elements that will give visitors a glimpse of how the holidays were experienced in decades past.

Stop by the King St. facility, located next to the Port Colborne Public Library, on Dec. 4 from noon until 4 p.m. to be a part of the 35th annual event.

"This year I want to start a family tradition," said Assistant Curator Michelle Mason, noting she has seen families come through over the years, which now bring their own children back to share in the fun.

Roam the heritage village and partake in the various attractions, including \$1 horse drawn carriage rides, candle dipping, log sawing and branding, and card printing.

Santa Claus himself will be in the schoolhouse posing for photos by the fireplace while volunteers serve beverages at Arabella's Edwardian Tea Room, where pud-

ding and sauce will also be available to take home.

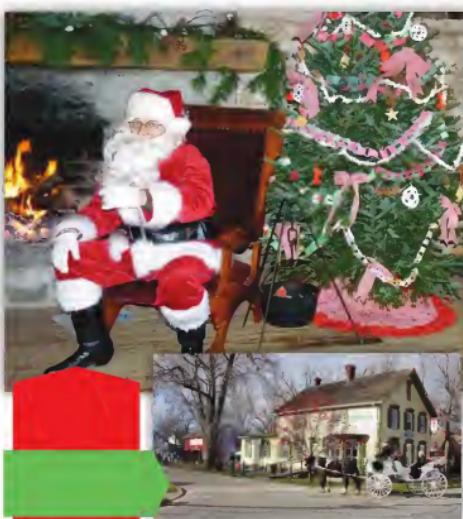
Roasted chestnuts, hot apple cider, caramel apples and sausage on a bun will tempt taste buds on the grounds.

The hundreds of visitors that are expected this year will be treated to the musical styling of school choirs and can even do some shopping at the book sale being held in the archival building.

"It's a really nice atmosphere," said Mason, who will help decorate the grounds with traditional elements such as evergreen boughs and berries. "It feels very Christmassy."

She will also set up a holiday-themed exhibit for viewing inside the main building entitled Christmas in the Country. The exhibit, which will remain on display until the 20th when the museum closes for the season, will showcase the resourcefulness and ingenuity necessary to produce a holiday experience before modern times.

Following the festival Arabella's will hold its annual pudding and sauce week from Dec. 5 to 10. Take a break from your holiday shopping and stop by between 2 and 4 p.m. for a treat for \$4 a serving.



From our family to yours....

On behalf of members of City Council and City Staff, may I extend to you and your family best wishes throughout the Holiday Season.

Take the time for yourself, your family and friends and support each other throughout this wonderful time of year. As well, please support our local businesses as they support our community all year round.

Mayor Vance Badaway



PORT COLBORNE
www.PORTCOLBORNE.ca

Our Community celebrates the Holidays together

Thank you to all the children who submitted Port Colborne Christmas art for the City's 2011 Christmas card. These five images were chosen. Congratulations to Desiree, Kathryn, Audrey, Alexandra and Rebekah who will be featured on the Mayor's Float in the Christmas Parade on December 3rd.



ALEXANDRA KLAUCK,
Grade 6, St. Patrick School



AUDREY WILLOUGHBY,
Grade 6, St. Patrick School



DESIREE MACEACHERN,
Grade 6, St. Therese School



KATHRYN MULLINS,
Grade 6, St. Patrick School



REBEKAH RIZZO,
Grade 6, Dewitt Carter School

Santa Claus is Coming to Town



Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

Although he won't be coming down the chimney until Christmas morning, Santa Claus will make an appearance in the lake-side city this Saturday.

Port Colborne's annual Santa Claus Parade kicks off on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and will

feature a variety of floats making their way through the streets.

"One of the joys of our parade is that it is a lighted evening parade," said Allaina Kane, Special Events Co-ordinator for the City of Port Colborne, of the unique element the tradition brings to the holidays. She also cites Santa's tugboat entrance, which is held prior to the parade at about 1 p.m., as a one-of-a-kind way to get a glimpse of jolly old Saint Nick.

The day actually starts much earlier than that with

the annual Lioness Club's Breakfast With Santa at the Lions Hall on Chippawa Rd. Seatings are at 9 am and 10:30 am for a pancake breakfast, including coffee or juice and a visit with Santa at the Lion's Hall. Tickets can be purchased at Tuck's Jewelers or from a Lioness.

At 1 p.m., Santa makes his official arrival in the lakeside city in a truly Port Colborne fashion - by tug boat.

Directed by McKay School Choir, and heading down the Welland Canal in the J.W. Cooper Tugboat, Santa will disembark on West St. near the Harbourmaster's House. He will then make his way on foot towards Clarence St. where he will visit with children in the former Rossman's store. The Downtown Business Improvement Area association will provide attendees with festive goodies and hot chocolate while Port Colborne photographer Precious LaPlante offers photos with Santa for \$5 each from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Although Santa's arrival will bring much excitement to the downtown crowd, the

festivities will have only just begun.

"It's a really well-attended event," said Kane of the parade, which brings together the whole community as everyone from businesses to community groups to viewers fill the streets and join in the holiday cheer.

She said that many families and individuals line the streets early, making the parade a part of their own traditions.

The parade gets underway at Port Colborne High School where floats will begin travelling south on Steele St. before turning onto Clarence St. and heading towards historic West St. After heading south along the canal, the parade will take a turn down Charlotte St. before concluding in front of City Hall.

Children can also visit with Santa at the Guild Hall following the parade and enjoy chocolate and Timbits.

Bundle up and head downtown as you celebrate the holiday season this weekend.

Wishing everyone a safe & happy Holiday Season
The members and staff of the

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Little Caesars



**Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune**

It's more than just pepperoni and cheese for Port Colborne's newest pizza joint.

Niagara Falls resident Denis Veillette has brought the Little Caesars franchise to the city. Upon his first visit, he said he knew he had come across a great location, sharing a space with Tim Hortons in the midst of the Port Colborne Mall parking lot.

Having opened in May, the store has received the support of the community.

"The city of Port Colborne is terrific," said Veillette. "We had the biggest grand opening in Ontario. It was unbelievable."

Veillette said the Hot-n-Ready pizza is the store's main draw at only \$5 for an eight-slice meal but customers also take advantage of the wide variety of pizzas on the menu.

Little Caesars carries everything from barbecue chicken to veggie to Hawaiian to suit the tastes of pizza lovers across the city.

The establishment is also well known for its chicken wings and breadsticks.

Stop by to enjoy a slice or order take out. Picking up dinner is made easy with the store being the first in the province to offer drive thru service.

Opening at 11 a.m. each day, the store's friendly staff is ready to serve you and satisfy your hunger.



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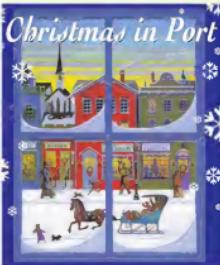
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COLESLAW, BREAD & SAUCE

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INCL. 4 PCS PICKEREL, FRIES,
COLESLAW, BREAD & SAUCE





Remember Christmas?

Remember when Christmas was a time of wonder?

When you braved the cold between shops with an armload of unique gifts?
Bumping into folks you hadn't seen forever... being good, for goodness sake?

The City of Port Colborne wishes to invite you 'round for Christmas this year, because as much as Christmas has changed in other places, things are pretty much the same here as they were back in the good old days...

Visit www.portcolborne.ca for full list of events and activities

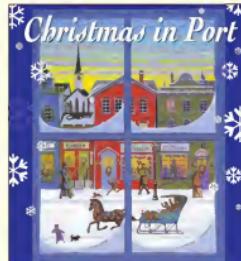


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SATURDAY
9-6

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Something Else

Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

Breathe new life into your style staples with the latest fashion craze.

Something Else offers upcycled fashion and accessories in an environmentally conscious way to update your wardrobe.

Owner Gail Todd is the face behind the new store, which opened in June on the corner of Clarence and West St. and also features art and décor.

"I have always been interested in art and unique things," she said, adding that her opening a store with an artful concept was the perfect combination.

The new twist on recycling spreads throughout the store with everything from clothing to jewellery to accessories laid out for easy browsing.

Upcycling is something Todd said she admires, enjoying the clever way items are combined to make new products and notes it is a big industry that is becoming increasingly more popular.

When selecting products to feature, Todd only makes room for one of each item to ensure shoppers will be the only one in town sporting the unique pieces.

Some of the wares included reconstructed sweatshirts, handmade scarves, car upholstery purses and belt buckles made from skateboards.

Billed as a gallery boutique, Something Else both fits in and stands out among the boutiques and stores on historic West St.

With roots in the city, Todd has made connections with various local artists and creators and is able to work with them to add to the store's selection. She also selects products from a wholesale retailer when it comes time to restock.

She visits the wholesaler once every four to six weeks, so there is always something new to be seen as the inventory is always changing.

"It's a one-of-a-kind store for one-of-a-kind people," said Todd.

It's a one-of-a-kind store for one-of-a-kind people



Picture with Santa!

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Doug Swartz Appliance Expert

Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

With more than 30 years in the service industry, the Swartz family is ready to assist residents with their appliance needs.

"We're family owned and operated to cater to the needs of local families," said Owner Doug Swartz, adding the store carries products to suit every lifestyle.

Offering competitive pricing in comparison to the big box retailers, the family store stocks all major household appliances at its Killaly St. location, including top brands such as Frigidaire and Whirlpool.

Following the grand opening in

April, the Swartz family has made use of the spacious facility and has seen much growth as many people have been choosing to shop locally.

"The business is definitely growing," said Store Manager Debbie Swartz.

The shopping experience doesn't stop at the cash register. Doug Swartz Appliance Expert also offers installation and servicing after the product makes it out the door.

Debbie Swartz is busy planning an end-of-the-year event and will bring festive spirit and savings to the store for four days beginning Dec. 7 as a way of celebrating the

season with customers.

They will also give back this year by collecting non-perishable food items for the Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre in exchange for a chance to win a freezer donated by Frigidaire.

Interested buyers can stop by the store to browse or pick up one of the quarterly flyers to see what they have to offer.

With a variety of options, the store aims to go the extra mile for its customers.

"After the sale, it's the service that counts," said Doug Swartz.




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Candy Safari

Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

Embrace your inner child as you browse the shelves of Candy Safari.

Sweet treats are on display as Owner Mike Hopper works to take customers on a two down memory lane with classic and unique items that aren't always available in the big-box stores.

The store designed for the kid in you is visited by adults and children alike and features a wide variety of products to satisfy any sweet tooth.

Having owned four Candy Safari stores previously, Hopper was presented with the opportunity to open another after relocating his family to the lakeside city.

With its grand opening in March,

the store is now a part of the shopping experience on historic West St.

"I wanted to put the fun back into candy and confectionary," he said, having played up the store's safari theme with fun decorations and bright colours that bring about a whimsical atmosphere.

"My feeling was to take people back to their childhood," said Hopper of the nostalgic feel he hoped to create with shoppers who will be able to lose their inhibitions and relax in a fun atmosphere.

While the shop focuses on sweets, there is more to this store than just chocolate. Tea, coffee and ice cream can be enjoyed in-store while making use of the seating provided.

Hopper also offers a selection of local products, representing compa-

nies based in Walnifleet, Fenwick, Dunnville, Crystal Beach and Niagara-on-the-Lake as well as items imported from across the pond.

For his first Christmas on West St., Hopper has made gift giving easy by preparing about two hundred gift baskets to celebrate the season.

Also new this December is the theme party room located on the second floor. Children can choose a theme and bring their friends to the staff-monitored area to enjoy their special day. For more information on this service, contact the store.

Candy Safari is a unique confectionery experience that offers something for the kid in all of us.

"It doesn't matter if you're eight years old or 80," Hopper said. "Everyone loves candy."



The Gathering Nest

Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

One wardrobe's castoffs are another fashion lover's treasure.

Search the racks at The Gathering Nest for unique fashion finds or clean out your closet in hopes of making some extra cash.

The consignment and gift shop sells top quality merchandise for a fraction of the retail price while helping customers recycle and save money in this economy.

Owner Debby Harrietha said shoppers could enjoy an out-of-the-ordinary shopping experience when they stop by. Taking a closer look could lead to the next big fashion find as visitors are free to try on pieces and mix and match styles.

Shoppers could enjoy an out-of-the-ordinary shopping experience when they stop by

"Somebody can like it as much as you did," said Harrietha of the items that are dropped off at the Clarence St. store.

While the racks are home to a variety of clothing pieces, the store also carries accessories, jewelry and other artful items.

Having opened this past May, the store has already seen much success.

"It has far exceeded what we anticipated," said Harrietha, adding shopping at consignment stores is a popular concept and there is opportunity to find trendy pieces.

Update your wardrobe this winter or find a gift for the fashion lover on your list with the Gathering Nest.

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DECEMBER 18TH
1:30 - 3:30

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Going out with a bang

Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

Ring in the New Year with family and friends this month as you attend the annual CASCO and Friends Kids New Year's Eve Carnival.

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Dec. 31 and ending with a fireworks display at 6 p.m., the public is invited to the West Side Arena for a variety of family-friendly activities to kick off 2012.

The free event will provide four hours of fun for all ages. Bring your skates for some free ice time or immerse yourself in endeavors such as

face painting, cookie decorating and games.

The afternoon will also feature a shoot out competition, a mad scientist presentation and the CASCO Fructose Stand.

Closing out the event will be a fireworks display, which will take place over the baseball diamonds next to the arena.

"We're really lucky to have the community support," said City of Port Colborne Special Events Co-ordinator Allaina Kane of the choice residents make to celebrate in the city.

Start the New Year off on the right foot with CASCO and Friends.

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PORT COLBORNE

CITY OF PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/COUNCIL MEETING FOR
THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

One regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 12th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne.

FREE METERED PARKING FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

To promote and encourage shopping in the downtown core and at the Port Colborne Farmers' Market, motorists may park free at any meter in Port Colborne for the month of December.

PLEASE NOTE:

All other parking infractions will be strictly enforced.

- Parking in handicapped zones without a permit
- Parking in fire routes
- Parking in prohibited areas (loading zones, corner restrictions)
- Parking blocking a driveway
- Parking over the time limit in 1 and 2 hour zones etc.

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSING

Please be advised that City Hall will close for the holiday season on Friday, December 23rd, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012.

The City Works / Parks Yard will be closed December 26th and 27th, 2011 for Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Emergency calls throughout the closure will be handled in the usual fashion by calling 835-5079 (24 hour service).

FARMERS' MARKET

During the month of December, the Farmers' Market will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Friday, December 2, 2011
- Friday, December 9, 2011
- Friday, December 16, 2011
- Friday, December 23, 2011

Commencing January 6th, 2012, the Market will be held on that day and every Friday thereafter from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk

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■ FORKS RD.: Speed an issue on road

Fatal crash triggers request for farm vehicle signs

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — In light of a tragic crash at the beginning of the month, Ald. Richard Dykstra is looking for signage to alert people of active farm areas in Wainfleet.

"The big thing is education ... a sign that says this is an active farm area," Dykstra

said, adding a resident brought forward concerns after the collision.

On Nov. 1, a 38-year-old Selkirk, Ont., woman died when her van collided with the rear end of a combine on Forks Rd. Both vehicles were travelling westbound at the time of the collision, which was shortly after 7 p.m. Two boys in the van, aged 10 and 13, were

injured, as was the driver of the combine, a 49-year-old Wainfleet man.

Dykstra, who lives on Forks Rd., asked what options the township has for signage for Forks Rd., which is a regional road.

Mayor April Jeffs and director of operations Greg Wulsman both said Niagara Region has its own sign shop

and could make whatever design Wainfleet requested.

With regional staff would have to approve any signs for Forks Rd.

Ald. Ted Hessel said Haltonland County has large-sized signs warning of slow-moving vehicles.

Hessel feels the signs would be needed only for regional roads in the township.

"I don't think municipal roads would be a problem ... it's the high-profile roads that are the problem," said Hessel, adding residents in the township are aware of farm vehicles travelling slowly during various harvest times.

While Forks Rd. is posted 80 km/h, people routinely speed down the stretch between Hwy. 58 and Hwy. 3

at Chambers Corners. Other roads that could be a candidate include Regional Rds. 24 and 27.

Jeffs said she and Wulsmen will meet with Joe Cousins, Niagara Region's transportation services director, to discuss the sign issue and figure out what can be placed on the regional roads in the township.

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■ EDUCATION: Special high skills major students get real world practice in Wainfleet

Lakeshore students build skills at Jericho House

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Measure twice and cut once.

It's the advice Brother Bill Carrothers of Jericho House gave Lakeshore Catholic High School students Tyler Dekker and brothers Andrew and Kevin Sasin as they spent much last week at the Wainfleet-based youth and adult retreat priming and painting some 500 metres of baseboards.

"It's a lot of work," said Kevin Sasin. "It's a new learning experience for us. We've

never really learned (about construction) outside the classroom before. There's only so much theory can teach you."

The students are enrolled in the special high skills major construction program offered at Lakeshore. As part of a partnership between Jericho House and the school, students will spend this week painting baseboard and floor trim then work on landscaping in spring.

Carrothers, treasurer of Jericho House's board of directors and an onsite administrator, said the part-

nership began this past summer when Lakeshore visited Jericho House to attend a youth leadership retreat.

"(Tech teacher) Tino Nuccitelli was here and asked whether the students could do some work here," Carrothers said. "They offered to do the landscaping work as well as the trim and baseboard work for the great hall and bistro wing. The work has been exceptional."

Carrothers said the students get good exposure with real world experience while lending their support back to Jericho House.



PORT COLBORNE
Office of the Mayor

You're invited

The City of Port Colborne
will be holding a
Naming Ceremony for the
Health and Wellness Centre

on

Thursday, December 8th

at 11:00 a.m.

in the Parking Lot adjacent to the
Elizabeth Street Site

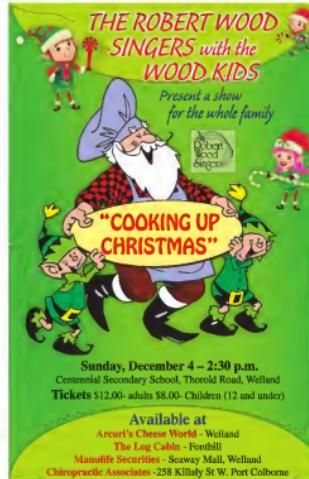
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Vance M. Badaway



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Lakeshore Catholic High School student Andrew Sasin closely inspects the baseball trim he just painted to ensure his spots are covered. Students are working at Jericho House in Wainfleet through the special high skills major construction program.



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■ **TAXES:** Council to meet again Monday

Port Colborne budget talks start with 4.46% tax hike

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A 4.46% tax levy increase was the jumping-off point for Port Colborne's 2012 budget deliberations, which began last Wednesday night.

A draft budget document was presented by staff to council containing a 4.46% increase to taxpayers — though it's still early in the budgetary process and numbers are expected to fluctuate.

Councillors spent the evening going through the budget package and reviewing both operations and capital costs.

Included in the draft budget is \$30,000 for the health and wellness centre for operating costs city staff expect to incur when the new facility is commissioned in October or November.

The funds will cover the transition period between when the new facility is

opened and Westside Arena officially closed, said Peter Senese, director of community and corporate services.

Also included in the draft is \$42,000 for a facilities programmer who would begin with the city in April.

"Our mandate is to get the new facility up and running with programs to its fullest," said Senese.

A full-time staff member would be required to bring

various programs to the city's many facilities such as the new centre, marina, Roselawn Centre and various sports fields throughout Port Colborne.

The goal is to offer a "robust menu of activities" that cannot be found anywhere else in the area, said Marvin Badaway. The more programs that are available, the more likely the centre will be booked solid once it's opened, said chief administrative officer Bob Heil.

And having the facility booked will result in less cost to taxpayers through user fees, he added.

"It's better to start before hand when we're open and running."

Though details on the centre's grand opening have yet to be decided, Senese said it will be done at minimal cost with no addition for the event needed in the 2012 budget.

See BUDGET | page 16



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Everyone Welcome

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Our special memorial page will run on Saturday, December 24, 2011.



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or visit our office at 228 East Main Street, Welland, between 8:30a.m. and 1:00 p.m. only, Monday thru Friday.

Deadline is no later than December 16th at 1:00p.m.

Please be advised that all ads require prepayment

BUDGET

City should be able to recoup some costs

FROM PAGE 15

Changes were, however, recommended for the tax levy to fund one-time request initiatives.

Senese recommended a minimum amount of \$200,000 be added to the

levy for one time request initiatives, which in the past have been funded by Port Colborne Hydro Inc.

These funds will not be available in 2012, as the sale of PCCHI to Canadian Niagara Power will be finalized on April 15. Prior

to the April closing date, the city will have accumulated some funds that will go toward annual grant requests and administrative costs to wind down hydro's operations.

The city should be able to recoup some costs once

its services audit, which begins in January, is completed, Senese said.

The audit will look at core and non-core services to determine where cost-saving measures can be applied.

"There may be levels of

service council will want to reduce," Senese said, adding much of the 2012 budget could depend on results of the audit.

Once the audit is complete, council can determine where money can be moved to be used more

efficiently, he said.

The next budget meeting takes place Monday, Dec. 5, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

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■ SKYDIVE BURNABY

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Skydive Burnaby must remove illegal trailers from its property after township council also decided not to allow the construction of 18 buildings measuring 8.28 square metres each to replace the units used by seasonal employees.

Township planner Grant Munday said staff looked at Skydive Burnaby's proposal to build the units and various zoning and property standard bylaws and found it did not fit.

The units, Munday said, would need to be equipped with plumbing, a bathroom and a kitchen to comply, and those would not fit in such small quarters.

"In order for council to consider the proposal it would have to lift its interim bylaw," said Munday, adding he consulted with the town's legal staff on the issue.

If council were to allow the units to be built, it would send the wrong message to others in the township, he added.

A number of bylaws could be amended to allow for the units, but that, too, would fly in the face of what council

is trying to achieve with its new zoning bylaws. It would also cost the applicant, Skydive Burnaby, a minimum of \$12,300.

"My recommendation is they remove the trailers as guaranteed in 2003 and look at the bunkhouse agreed to back then ... and that council not open up this issue any further," said Munday.

He said the company, owned by Mike and Tam Pitt, could look at housing employees in alternate locations in the township, including Jericho House, local motels and the campground at Linton Lake, or consider building the once-agreed-to bunkhouse.

Alasdair Wyatt asked if the Pitts could build the bunkhouse in modular form to save them some money.

Munday said that is possible if the trailers are removed, but he didn't know if there would be a cost savings by doing the bunkhouse in stages.

"The main issue is they have to get rid of the trailers and then comply with the bylaws," he said.

Mike Beck Konz asked about a section of the bylaw the planner had in his report regarding the bunkhouse, which would house 20 people.

"Would they be required to have two

bathrooms and two showers?" Konz asked.

Munday said yes and added the zoning only permits a bunkhouse that can house 20 people.

Munday said a Nov. 17 deadline to

have the trailers removed has passed and the township could seek legal action if they are not removed. A court order could be issued and any costs associated with their removal would be borne by Skydive Burnaby.

Cindy Adams, who lives next to Skydive Burnaby, addressed council Monday and urged them to have the trailers removed and not grant the Pitts any more extensions or exemptions.



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EYE EXAMS ARRANGED

Christmas and New Years Holiday Deadlines for the Sun Media Classified Network

TRIBUNE

Publication Date	Word Ad Deadline
Dec 21	Dec 20 at 1 p.m.
Dec 22	Dec 21 at 1 p.m.
Dec 23	Dec 22 at 1 p.m.
Dec 24	Dec 23 at 1 p.m.
Dec 26	Dec 23 at 10 a.m.
Dec 27	Dec 23 at 10 a.m.
Dec 28	Dec 27 at 1 p.m.
Dec 29	Dec 28 at 1 p.m.
Dec 30	Dec 29 at 1 p.m.
Dec 31	Dec 30 at 10 a.m.
Jan 3	Dec 30 at 1 p.m.

PELHAM NEWS & IMPORT - word and display

Publication Date	Deadline
Dec 23	Dec 16 at 10 a.m.
Dec 30	Dec 23 at 10 a.m.

CELEBRATIONS PAGE

Publication Date	Deadline
Dec 24	Dec 19 at 1 p.m.
Dec 31	Dec 27 at 10 a.m.

Tribune Office will be closed December 26, 2011 and January 2, 2012.

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inPortbrief

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

WAINFLEET — Santa will pay a visit to Wainfleet Arena's Moose Room on Saturday, Dec. 3 to take part in Wainfleet Ratepayers Association's pancakes with Santa breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon.

Tickets \$5 per person and are available at Port Colborne and Wainfleet Libraries or contact Kelli Porcino at 905-834-1589. Mrs. Claus will be joining Santa and

Mayor April Jeffs will be there to take photographs with Santa and children from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The fee for photos is a non-perishable food items to be donated to Port Cares Food Bank. All proceeds will be used to purchase gift certificates for Wainfleet families in need.

There will also be door prizes at the breakfast and for further info or to donate a door prize, contact Franco at 905-685-6892.

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The Healthy Cupboard

Did you remember to take your Minerals today?

What are the most important nutrients for your health?

There's a lot of discussion about anti-oxidants, vitamin D, probiotics and Omega-3, and more. These are all important components for health but the most important nutrients are basic minerals. Did you know that approximately two-thirds of your daily nutrient requirements are minerals? According to Dr. Joel Wallach, "The body requires 91 essential nutrients. This is made up of 60 minerals, 16 vitamins, 12 amino acids, and 5 fatty acids." If you've read one of Dr. Wallach's books, studied his research or attended one of his presentations, you'll know more on how minerals play a vital role in our health and well-being; and subsequently how a lack of minerals in our bodies can contribute to almost every disease.

"The real world evidence I have collected during my travels leads me to an unshakable conclusion - I have observed that everyone is slowly dying or suffering from physical and emotional problems as a result of RAMPANT, WIDESPREAD AND UNRECOGNIZED DEFICIENCIES of three substances. Oxygen, minerals and clean oxygenated water! The observations are not concepts, but the absolute, the most basic elements necessary to life, health and to happiness." (From Dr. Wallach's book: Rare Earths Forbidden Cures)

My name is Pam. I am a registered nurse from Alberta. When I was 27 and a mother of two toddlers I had a growth removed from my thyroid. The growth turned out to be benign however part of my thyroid was also removed during the procedure. I tried not to go on thyroid supplements but after one year I was forbidden to do so by my doctor. This was not safe with two young children in the house. I felt much better on thyroid medication but one side effect was to have fine staining on my teeth.

Three years ago I started taking herbal supplements for my thyroid and no longer needed to take medication. Last November after hearing Dr. Wallach I decided to try Youngevity minerals. I currently no longer need to take any herbs for my thyroid and only seem to need the plant minerals, essential fatty acids and a vitamin supplement. I have more energy and have had no colds this winter. It took about six months before I felt I did not need to take the herbs as well as the minerals. Over the last three years on herbs and now the minerals I have lost about 25 pounds. I am very happy with how I feel and plan to continue the mineral supplementation.

Why would one product obtain so many results?

The answer is found by understanding the problem. Most diseases are a result of a mineral deficiency. For example, Vanadium is just one of many minerals required for a healthy body. According to the University of British Columbia Medical School, vanadium alone will replace insulin in adult onset diabetics, which represent 85% of all diabetics. Of course they can't quit their insulin cold turkey. It takes at least 4 to 6 months for most people to slowly wean off of insulin. If they are taking in adequate amounts of chromium and vanadium, diabetes is a disease of leptin signaling and insulin storage not a disease of blood sugar though it does raise blood sugar levels. We have to trace it all back to the cause and effect. The cause, meaning an improper diet and a lack of certain trace minerals like chromium and vanadium, and then the effect which is a high count of glucose (sugar) in the blood. Ken B. living in Regina, SK, writes:

"I was a type two diabetic with blood sugar levels as high as 24. I have tried everything to stabilize my blood sugar levels, nothing seemed to work. I heard a talk by Dr. Wallach in Regina and I thought I would give the Youngevity minerals products a try. Within 72 hours of taking the products my blood sugar levels were at 6.5 and have been there ever since. The change in my quality of life and how I feel everyday cannot be explained in words."

The secret is a 100% natural organic source of 75 colloidal minerals. You will not find a better product that contains more minerals, that is highly bioavailable. This means the particle size of the minerals are so small our body can absorb more minerals, faster. Canadians are noticing great results with more energy and less pain by taking approximately 1 ounce per every 100 lbs of weight each day. Some people increase this amount at the start if they are seeking immediate health benefits.

This product will improve the performance of your daily nutrition and supplement programs. Minerals work with your other nutrients such as vitamins, amino acids and essential fatty acids. It increases the absorption of all vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Plant Derived Minerals has been shown to help enhance bone density, energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen muscles, teeth, hair, skin and nails and improve immune function to name a few benefits. Plant Derived Minerals increases energy and reduces pain within days. Give it a try today!



Endorsed by Dr. Joel Wallach, BS, DVM, ND Naturopathic Doctor, Best Selling Author
Plant Minerals is available at fine Canadian health food stores.

Tanya and Ian Birrell
Owners of The Healthy Cupboard

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WILD WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 7, 2011
OPEN LATE ON CUSTOMER DAY 9:30 - 7pm

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